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SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MAY 1987

Gulf War

Aftermath of Stark Incident — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated that the Iraqi pilot who fired on the U.S. frigate *Stark received no signal from the ship prior to releasing his* missile, and he therefore believed he was attacking an Iranian target, Radio Monte Carlo reported. 'Aziz also noted that his government is awaiting an official U.S. report on the attack. In remarks to Western media cited by INA, the foreign minister reiterated Iraq's regret over the "unpremeditated incident."

In reference to the *Stark* incident, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared to the parliament that "the miracle of Tabas" has been repeated, according to remarks cited by Tehran radio. The speaker stressed that "the waves of the Persian Gulf will not be any less deadly for the aggressors than the storms of Tabas." Mentioning the case of the Soviet tanker *Marshal Chuykov, Hashemi-Rafsanjani attributed the "misery* and degradation" of the superpowers to "God's will" and declared that such "divine assistance" testifies to the justness of the cause of the Islamic Republic. The "ambiguities" of the U.S. response to the missile attack on the *Stark* demonstrate the administration's "uncertainty and agitation," Hashemi-Rafsanjani observed. The speaker called into question that both incidents could have been "accidental." He also accused the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq of working together in an attempt to bring about a "catastrophe," and he thanked "alert officials" for aborting the "plan to create problems" on Jerusalem Day, the last day of Ramadan.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi reminded the superpowers of his country's warning against "expansionist policies" in the Gulf region, IRNA reported. Iran "will confront any plot and military intervention," Musavi asserted.

The Kuwaiti paper *Al-Anba'* cited by KUNA charged that U.S. President Ronald Reagan was responsible for the *Stark* incident because he "participated in fomenting the fire of the war" by supplying arms to the belligerants. The paper deplored the "non-credibility" of U.S. policy and claims of neutrality in the war and urged the President to take action in tandem with the Soviet Union to end the "raging war."

In further reaction to the recent incidents in the Gulf, a Riyadh radio commentator called attention to the intensification of the "explosive situation" in the region and to the "danger" of the war's "internationalization." There is an "urgent need" for the international community to take action to contain the Iran-Iraq war, the commentator declared.

Iranian Plane Downed — Iraqi warplanes shot down an Iranian F-4 over the waters near Al-'Amiq port 20 May, according to a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran

Omani Foreign Ministry official Yusuf Al-'Alawi 'Abdallah termed his 4-day visit to Iran "positive and valuable," in remarks cited by IRNA. The agency noted that the two countries agreed to expand their cooperation.

Saudi Arabia

In an interview with *Al-Siyasah* carried by SPA, King Fahd praised the GCC's spirit of flexibility and cooperation which has enabled it to establish cohesion among Arab states. He also said the expected meeting between Syria and Iraq will reinforce Arab strength and unity. Turning to oil prices King Fahd said prices should be set at a specific limit for at least 2 years, pointing out that this stability would benefit Third World countries as well as industrial states.

GCC

The GCC ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation concluded its session in Jeddah 19 May, SPA reported. In its statement the committee expressed satisfaction with the improvement in the petroleum market and pointed out the need to adhere to established production levels and ceilings and preserve price stability.

Libya

The head of the Peoples' Bureau in Canberra said Australia had no evidence that Libya had acted to destabilize countries in the South Pacific, Melbourne radio reported. Reacting to Australia's decision to close the Peoples' Bureau in Canberra, the diplomat said his country gave military training to freedom fighters but did not seek to depose governments.

Israel

No-confidence motions were defeated in the Knesset, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that most members of the Alignment were absent from the chamber during the vote.

Lebanon

Continuing his consultations with West Beirut officials, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, met with Amal leader Nabih Birri, Voice of National Resistance radio reported. The general disclosed that it has been agreed that the cabinet council should be the seat of executive power. On the subject of the security situation, Kan'an noted that security forces seized arms and explosives during their efforts to arrest those responsible for recent bombings in West Beirut. In a related development, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that five bombs exploded in West Beirut 20 May following a "campaign of raids and arrests" by Syrian troops.

In southern Lebanon, four Israeli soldiers were wounded 20 May when a bomb detonated near their patrol vehicle, IDF radio reported.

Sudan

Cabinet Crisis — Chairman of the State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani issued a decree 19 May relieving all ministers of their posts and clearing the way for the formation of a new government, SUNA reported. The Finance Ministry, citing the "current situation" in Sudan, announced the postponement until the first week of June of negotiations with the IMF, according to SUNA. The agency also cited an *Al-Ayyam* report that Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had postponed by a month his visit to Yugoslavia planned for 30 May.

Situation in South — In remarks cited by SUNA, Al-Mahdi dismissed reports that Cuban soldiers are participating in rebel operations in the south.

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AFP: Rebels Kill Minister During Ramadan Campaign

BK191556 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Islamabad, May 19 (AFP) — Muslim rebels shot dead an Afghan minister and more than 70 Soviet soldiers as part of an intensified Ramadan campaign in Afghanistan during past weeks, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. The diplomats said rebel fighters had mounted attacks on Soviet bases in Afghanistan and shot down three helicopters in Kabul.

According to the diplomats, the Afghan minister for Islamic Affairs 'Abdol Jamil Zarif, who joined the government of communist party leader Najibullah, had been reportedly killed by rebels at the town of Gardez in eastern Paktia Province. The exact date of the killing was not given.

The diplomats said mujahedin rebels had also shot down an Afghan jet in the area, on Pakistan's north western border, where heavy fighting has been reported since the end of April. They added that mujahedin fighters killed 17 Soviets and 10 Afghan Government forces during prolonged fighting in the northern Qara Bagh area last week.

They said fierce fighting erupted on May 9 and that the Soviet-Afghan forces also suffered heavy material losses, including two tanks. Two mujahedin rebels were killed and five wounded in the incident, which were said to have prompted massive Soviet retaliatory attacks on villages around the city.

According to the diplomats fighting in the northern Baghlan Province, which started May 11, left two Soviet soldiers dead and three tanks destroyed.

Quoting Afghan sources, the diplomats said about 800 troops had defected to the mujahedin in the area, which could have been the cause of the increased Soviet losses.

According to the same sources, guerrillas launched a rocket attack on a Soviet base only five kilometres (three miles) from their Darul Aman military headquarters in Kabul. They rebels said they killed 30 Soviet troops in the attack, diplomats reported.

Fighting was also reported in western Herat, southern Qandahar and on the northern Satang highway linking Kabul with Moscow, the sources said.

According to one report, guerrillas had set up their own checkpoint on the Satang highway and were holding commercial containers for ransom. Goods were returned if the trader paid a ransom as high as 50,000 dollars, the report said, quoting a Kabul trader.

The report said a similar checkpoint had been set up on the Kabul-Jalalabad road and rebels were again demanding "tolls."

According to the diplomats, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil admitted to his Indian counterpart N.D. Tiwari in Kabul recently that insurgency had risen since the Afghan Government announced its unilateral ceasefire on January 15.

The minister also acknowledged that mujahedin rebels controlled a large part of the country, but added that if this were still the case by July 15, Afghan forces would retaliate "massively," diplomats said.

They added that Mr. Wakil reportedly failed to get Mr. Tiwari to agree to act as go-between for the Afghan Government in contacts with ex-King Zahir Shah, who is now in exile in Rome.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Government has claimed that nine local councils in northern Badakhshan had been set up where people from 174 villages had agreed to support Mr. Najibullah's National reconciliation policy.

But a prominent mullah who openly spoke against the national reconciliation and criticised the slow release of prisoners has himself been detained in Lowgar Province, the diplomats said.

The guerrillas shot dead the reconciliation commission's chief in Qandahar and also killed the head of the Afghan secret service, the KHAD, in northern Takhar. Another four KHAD officials were killed and five captured in an Ambush on May 7, the diplomats said.

In Kunar, on May 15, rebels killed 13 civilian electricians travelling in a military bus from Sorobi to Kabul while 43 Afghan soldiers were killed in an ambush on the Kabul-Jalalabad road on May 13, they reported.

Ground-to-Ground Missile Attack Foiled

LD191628 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] A satanic design of some extremist elements who wanted to attack Qalat, in Zabol Province, with U.S.-made ground-to-ground missiles and bring mourning to the homes of our compatriots, was foiled as a result of the all-round cooperation of the people. A *Bakhtar* correspondent reports from Qalat that the peace-loving people of Zabol Province contacted the National Reconciliation Commission of Zabol Province prior to the implementation of this criminal act and asked that the security forces enter the region and to prevent this criminal action.

Then the security forces, responding to the demand of the National Reconciliation Commission, entered the area where the ground-to-ground missile unit was targeted at Qalat and, by strictly observing the cease-fire terms, seized the unit, along with 70 ground-to-ground missiles.

Extremist Group Crushed in Qandahar Province

LD191654 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] A *Bakhtar* correspondent reports that an opposition extremist group, headed by Mohammad Sharif, covertly penetrated Qandahar recently. Utilizing the cease-fire, the group wanted to engage in armed criminal actions and disrupt the peaceful life of the noble people of Qandahar during the month of Ramadan. However, the toiling people of Qandahar's Ward

Six, becoming aware of the ill intention of these criminals, contacted the National Reconciliation Commission of Qandahar Province and asked the commission to prevent the extremist elements from carrying out the terrorist and subversive actions through the security forces and to punish them for their actions.

The report adds that, responding to the demands of the people and observing the cease-fire, the security forces beseiged the den where the extremist group was hiding and asked it to surrender their weapons peacefully and give themselves up to the security forces. Undermining the rules of the cease-fire, the group opened fire at the security forces and did not surrender. The report states that, in response to the repeated demands of the Reconciliation Commission and in order to prevent crime by the extremist elements, the security forces countered with action of their own. The satanic den of the criminals was captured. As a result, five members of the group, including its ringleader, Mohammad Sharif, were crushed.

KYODO: Foreign Minister Denies Clash With PRC

OW200741 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 *Kyodo* — India's Foreign Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari Wednesday denied a reported military clash last week between India and China, a Japanese official said.

In talks with Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, Tiwari said there was no incident with China and termed reports of a military confrontation on the Indian-Chinese border as "distorted." He said an Indian attack upon China is "unthinkable" and stressed his country's hope of establishing friendly relations with its northern neighbor.

Tiwari agreed with Kuranari on the importance of stability in the southwestern Asia. Tiwari added his country wants to avoid war with Pakistan and is seeking expanded economic and trade relations with that nation.

Tiwari also expressed concern over the effect on joint-ventures of the soaring value of the yen such as the price hikes of parts and called for further Japanese economic cooperation. Tiwari praised Japan's recent pledge to recycle 20 billion dollars to developing nations.

Tiwari extended an invitation to Kuranari to visit India. Kuranari said he would study the matter in hopes of realizing the visit. Tiwari, who is here in an unofficial capacity following an official visit to South Korea, leaves Tokyo Wednesday.

Further Reportage on Violence, Curfew in Meerut

4 Killed; Army 'Alerted'

BK191244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the district authorities in Meerut have alerted the Army following the violence in the city. PTI, quoting police sources, reports that at least four persons were killed and five injured in violent incidents today. A number of cases of arson and looting were also reported. Several companies of police and paramilitary forces have been deployed all over the strife-torn city to control the situation.

As already reported, indefinite curfew was imposed in some parts of the city this morning following incidents of arson and violence last night.

Curfew Imposed in Old Delhi

BK200234 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0215 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] No untoward incident was reported last night from the areas now under curfew in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. The government has issued strict orders to maintain law and order and warned that those inciting violence will be dealt with sternly.

The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chidambaram, and the state chief minister, Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, are visiting the affected areas to assess the situation. Mr Chidambaram has appealed to the people of Meerut, especially those living in the curfew-bound areas, to observe law. Three companies of the women's battalion of the Central Reserve Police have also been posted in addition to the four companies posted earlier. According to official reports the death toll in these disturbances has risen to 12 and 32 people have been injured.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew has been imposed in some parts of Old Delhi last night following some clashes. According to police 32 persons have been arrested in this connection. The police fired 16 rounds into the air and teargas shells to disperse a mob. Four police personnel were injured in the incidents.

Army Deployed in Meerut

BK200855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] In Meerut, the Army has been deployed in four sensitive areas in the city to help maintain law and order. Additional forces have been requisitioned to assist the civil authorities. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that the situation is under control and no untoward incident has been reported since last night. According to latest reports, the death toll in the violence during the last 36 hours has gone up to 18. Over 280 people have been arrested so far.

This morning the situation in the city was reviewed at a high-level meeting presided over by the union minister, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai. The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Bir Bahadur Singh, and senior army and police officials were present.

'Prohibitory Orders' in Delhi

BK200901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Prohibitory orders have been promulgated in the Union Territory of Delhi for 5 days following clashes in some areas last night. According to a police spokesman, the situation in the curfew-bound areas is under control and no untoward incident has been reported since the Army and the Central Reserve Police Force staged a flag march this morning. Indefinite curfew was imposed in Jama Masjid, Hauz Kazi, Chandni Mahal, and some areas of Chandni Chowk after violence broke out over an Eve teasing [sexual harassment] incident. Two people were killed and 21, including 3 policemen, injured in the clashes.

CPI-M Leader, Journalist Shot Dead in Punjab

BK191602 Delhi Domestic in English 1530 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] A CPI-M leader, Mr Pradeep Kumar, was shot dead by some suspected terrorists near Tarn Taran in Amritsar district this afternoon.

The Punjab governor, Mr Sidhartha Shanker Ray, has condemned the killing of a journalist, Mr Narendra Pal Singh. Mr Singh was shot dead at Tarn Taran this morning.

Meanwhile, the police setup in the state is being revamped to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. The police chief, Mr J.S. Ribeiro, told our Chandigarh correspondent that some police officers are likely to be brought on deputation from other states to fill the existing vacancies.

Meanwhile, the Hoshiapur police has captured the caretaker of a religious place near Tanda for harboring terrorists and arranging hideouts from them.

Punjab Policeman Shot by 'Suspected Terrorists'
BK200906 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, a Criminal Investigation Department subinspector of police was gunned down by some suspected terrorists near Dakoha village in Jullundur district this morning. Victim was returning home after duty.

West Bengal Chief Assails 'President's Rule' in Punjab
BK190429 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has criticized the imposition of president's rule in Punjab describing it as undemocratic and unconstitutional. Addressing a rally organized by the ruling left front in Calcutta yesterday, he alleged that the step has been taken with an eye on the forthcoming assembly elections in Haryana.

USSR's Dobrynin To Arrive 20 May for Week-Long Visit
BK190524 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] The secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr A.F. Dobrynin, is coming on a week's visit to India on Wednesday [20 May]. During his stay in the capital Mr Dobrynin, will have talks on bilateral relations.

CPI Urges Sri Lanka To Stop Attacks on Tamils
BK190425 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] The Communist Party of India has urged the Sri Lankan Government to stop military attacks on Tamils and lift the economic blockade and fuel embargo on Jaffna area. A resolution adopted at the meeting of its Central Executive Committee in New Delhi, urged the Union government to expedite political efforts to bring about direct negotations between the Tamil militants and political leaders and the Sri Lankan Government.

Ariane Booked To Launch Communications Satellites
BK190900 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Four Indian communication satellites are to be launched by the European space agency using the Ariane rocket. According to the annual report of the space department, INSAT-1C will be launched in February 1988 and INSAT-1D in April 1990. Ariane has also been booked for launching the first two satellites in the INSAT-2 series in 1990 and 1991. INSAT-2 satellites are being developed indigenously, and the first satellite in the series is expected to be ready by the end of 1989.

Yaqub Khan Reaffirms Independent Foreign Policy

BK131033 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
5 May 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islambad, May 4 — Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan today said that Pakistan would strictly pursue a totally nonaligned and independent foreign policy in keeping with national goals and aspirations of the people.

Participating in the debate in the National Assembly on President Ziaul Haq's address to the Parliament, the Foreign Minister replied point by point to the criticism of the policy by members during the last two days.

In his speech he touched on the question of Afghanistan, relations with its neighbours, Muslim countries, People's Republic of China, Soviet Union and the United States, acquisition of Airborne and Early Warning System (AWACS) for strengthening country's defence against border violations, and purchase of frigates from Britain for the navy and repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister told the house that the foreign policy had already been exhaustively reviewed by the Parliament at its joint sitting recently during which he reviewed it in detail followed by outlining of its main features by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in his winding up speech.

The Foreign Minister said it was true that the President in his address had not spoken on country's foreign relations with other states. A great part of his speech dealt with Pakistan's relations with superpowers, Muslim countries, China the question of Afghanistan and border tension.

Regarding Afghanistan the Foreign Minister said Pakistan remained committed to the securing of an early political settlement of the problem through peaceful means. Pakistan was in direct contact with the Soviet Union over the matter while Geneva process was also continuing simultaneously to find a quick solution of the issue.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan would welcome every constructive and concrete proposal from the other side showing flexibility in its approach provided it did not conflict with our fundamental stand on Afghanistan.

Regarding Non-Alignment Movement, the Foreign Minister said that Pakistan followed a truly non-aligned policy. In the pursuance of this policy country's national interest would always be fully safeguarded keeping an equi-distance between its relations with the two superpowers. Pakistan's policy in this respect was based on national goals which, he said, could be judged from an unimpeachable record.

About the view that in Afghanistan, the Mujahidin were fighting not only their own battle but that of Pakistan, he said that in this a fundamental principle was involved which this country supported steadfastly.

A small nation, he said had been made a victim of aggression by a superpower. The people of Afghanistan were waging a war to maintain their sovereignty, national integrity and independence. This principle was not only upheld by Pakistan but was also espoused by an overwhelming majority of world community.

As regards border tension, the Foreign Minister said violations of Pakistan's frontiers had become a serious matter which had heightened the urgency for acquiring an effective defence capability to deal with the situation ably. Pakistan was in search of an effective early warning system such as AWACS, but as yet no firm decision had been taken to determine the modality of such a system so that the country was enabled to defend its frontiers effectively.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said as far as repatriation of Pakistanis from Bangladesh was concerned, the government and people of Pakistan were deeply concerned about their plight. They had given tremendous sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan and had suffered greatly in the process. They had all the sympathy, understanding and support of people of Pakistan who were deeply sensitive to their need.

He, however, said some financial factors remained to be settled which was engaging the attention of the government. This matter was under constant review with a sense of urgency.

Speaking about the purchase of frigates from Britain, the Foreign Minister made it clear that no secret deal had been struck for purchase of the ships and press reports about them were highly speculative and unfounded.

He said the anxiety of some members in this connection was based on a London newspaper report which had already been denied by chairman of GEC, the British firm which was to manufacture these ships. A denial by him had been carried by "INDEPENDENT" newspaper of London the same day. The other press report was published but it was not taken notice of. He had stated in his statement that negotiations were still continuing for finalising the matter for which a team of officials of the firm would shortly visit Pakistan for further talks.

Some members, he said, had made a critical appraisal of the process of lifting of martial law to which the Education Minister had given lucid answers. He said the transition from martial law to civilian rule was not an easy thing. The imposition of martial law should be seen in the historical context which always was the result of breaking down of a civilian rule.

He said in the process of lifting of martial law, an authoritarian rule withered away from which a democratic setup took birth without any commotion. The credit for this went to all those involved in it — the President, the elected representatives and the nation as a whole.

He said respect for each other's views and tolerance of criticism was hallmark of a democratic polity. He hoped that all members would work for success of the new democratic order. Democracy was still a tender sapling which required nurturing and nourishment with loving care. Sahabzada Yaqub paid tributes to the armed forces for their service to the nation. He said they were not a separate entity but formed an integral part of the whole nation. They belonged to the people. They were committed to

serving the nation for which they did not hesitate even to give the supreme sacrifice of their life.

The armed forces, he said, should be supported and encouraged as they were an integral part of the national life.

Nasrullah Khan Concerned Over Indian Troops on Border

BK171122 Karachi DAWN in English 11 May 87 p 10

[Text] Multan, May 10 — Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chief of Pakistan Democratic Party, has expressed concern over re-concentration of Indian Troops on Rajasthan border, and urged upon the Government to take notice of India's extraordinary activities in the area of Ran of Kutch.

Talking to this correspondent, the Nawabzada said that clouds were hovering over our borders but we were not aware of any peril because Government was harping on the tune that "Sab achha hai" [everything is all right].

The Nawabzada said that the move to acquire AWACS could affect Pakistan's independent status and could push the country into an "inextricable vortex of super-power conflict". He said that these AWACS were clumsy, costly and huge, and Pakistan, an underdeveloped country, could not afford these aircrafts which could be more easily shot down than F-16s.

The Nawabzada said that Pakistan should acquire nuclear technology for the prosperity and integrity of the country. He said Pakistan should patiently consider the offer of USSR for withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, and it should not accept any pressure from any country.

Lashing out at Zia regime the Nawabzada said that it had done nothing for the betterment of the people and abused the sacred name of Islam.

The Nawabzada was fasting regularly in spite of weakness at his native town, Khangarh.

Rain Ruins Punjab Wheat Crop; Famine Feared

BK191212 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 May 87 p 1

[By Badrul Islam Butt]

[Excerpt] Lahore, May 10 — Wheat crops covering more than 50 percent of the entire area of 80 lakh acres in five districts in the Punjab were badly affected by the storm and rains currently hitting the province. The calamity, described as the worst in 50 years, may lead to famine conditions if timely measures are not taken by the government.

Sounding a note of warning to this effect, Choudhry Khurshid Alam, member Punjab Bar Council and an old Muslim Leaguer, called upon the Chief Minister [of] Punjab to declare the said area covering Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhopura, Gujranwala, Sialkot and Gujrat districts as calamity stricken after conducting an on the spot survey. Giving an account of the devastating effects of untimely rains at a press conference he said during the fortnight ending this morning the said area has beeen lashed five times by rain in the harvesting season. The gravity of the situation, he said, can be assessed by the fact that not even one percent of the peasants had yet removed their produce when the rains set in. The whole lot of wheat crop was either lying in the open in heaps after harvesting, or was standing in the fields. The heaps were swept away by the windstorm or were destroyed after being soaked in the rain. Standing crops also suffered heavily as the wheat grains became swollen and fell to the ground. Thus the entire crop, according to him, has been rendered completely unfit for human consumption.

Fearing famine like conditions in the rain hit districts, Ch. Khurshid Alam said that market places in the affected areas are lying vacant as hardly a few thousand bags of wheat had so far reached there. Besides big land owners, the worst sufferers, according to him, are the small land holders who have even lost the means to lift their wheat production. [passage omitted]

MUSLIM Urges Review of U.S. AWACS Purchase

BK191206 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 May 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Uproar over AWACS"]

[Text] Pakistan's decision to get AWACS planes from the United States has created an uproar in the region. The Soviet Union, India and Kabul have reacted sharply to the move. Mr. Tiwari, the Indian Foreign Minister, has already postponed his visit to the United States to signify India's intense displeasure with the United States for supplying sophisticated military hardware to Pakistan. The Indian argument that arms procurement by Pakistan has inevitably threatened peace, while Delhi's relentless drive to arm itself to the teeth has not, is ludicrous to say the least.

No less significant were Mr. Tiwari's pronouncements in Kabul last week, of which Islamabad took notice and voiced its concern as well. Mr Tiwari left no doubt that India has aligned itself more closely with Kabul than at any stage during the Afghan crisis. Pakistan can hardly ignore this. It will certainly make Kabul more daring in its operations on this side of the Durand Line.

The Soviet reaction against the proposed stationing of AWACS on Pakistani soil is more meaningful. It has not indulged in a tirade against Pakistan nor used threatening language against it. (Probably it thinks that the time is not ripe for such a recourse and that there is still room for better ties with Islamabad.) However, it has lashed out at the U.S. Briefing foreign journalists in Moscow on May 7, the Soviet spokesman said: "It should be clear that the escalation of unfriendly actions against Pakistan's neighbours, including the Soviet Union, will not remain unnoticed. For the time being, apparently in retaliation to the U.S. move, the USSR is reported to have decided to supply New Delhi with LI-76 'mainstay' aircraft (comparable to AWACS) and anti-AWACS MiG-31s. These deals are likely to be sorted out during the coming visit of Anatoliy Dobrynin, Assistant

Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, to New Delhi scheduled for May 20.

Unfortunately, there has been an overall deterioration in the regional situation. The Geneva talks on the Afghan issue are not going to be resumed this month and this could intensify activities on both sides of the Durand Line. Secondly, India-China relations have been further strained and there are reports of troop movements near the disputed borders. Finally, the Gulf war has entered a crucial stage. Iran has reasons to be apprehensive about any extraordinary activities around it. In a volatile situation like this even Pakistan's friendly neighbours may not like to see the AWACS (particularly if they are manned by the Americans) operating so near their borders. Islamabad must evaluate dispassionately whether AWACS will improve the security environment or create fresh hazards for it. The reported rethinking in Washington over the supply of AWACS may yet provide a providential escape route.

Paper Criticizes Raising of Voting Age to 21

BK171610 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 May 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Disenfranchising Youth"]

[Text] The National Assembly has voted to raise the minimum voting age for the electorate to twenty-one. The 1973 Constitution decreed that the age limit for participation in the first elections to be held under it was 21. For subsequent polls the voting age was to be 18. Thus, a one-time exception was made for the 1977 polls in which the age limit was 21. To now raise the voting age limit smacks of regressive attitudes. Pakistan is also out-of-step with the majority of the world community who have adopted 18 as the voting age. It appears that considerations behind the move to raise the voting age are politically motivated. At a single stroke the government has disenfranchised an important and aware segment of the youth. This segment is disaffected and would, in any case, not be in the pocket of the establishment. Therefore, the raising of the age limit to 21, eliminates a potentially hostile constituency.

The movers and voters of the amendment raising the voting age limit have done no credit to the norms of enlightened behaviour and progressive thinking. From a practical view point those who have been deprived of their right to vote would undoubtedly be antagonistic and would be itching to even the score when they attain the voting age.

SRI LANKA

Security Tightened in Kandy, Other Hill Country Areas

BK181142 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 87

[Text]Security has been tightened in the hill country and the area around the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy has been declared a security zone. The army and the police are checking vehicles entering Kandy from other areas.

Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali, who paid homage to the sacred relic yesterday, also reviewed the security arrangements that are being put into operation. He also instructed the army and the police personnel on measures that had to be taken.

The Mahasanghas [Buddhist clergy] expressed profound satisfaction over the measures taken by the government to extend protection to the temple of the sacred relic. The Mahanayakas [Buddhist patriarchs] of the Malwatte and Asgiriya chapters, during conversations with Mr Athulathmudali, commended the dedication shown by the police and the security personnel. The Diyawadana Nilame, [custodian of the tooth relic in Kandy], Niranjan Wijeratne, took the minister to all sections of the temple and explained the security arrangements. Later the minister inspected checkpoints at all roads leading to the hill country. He was accompanied by the deputy inspector general of police, central range, Gamini Gunewardene, and officers of the Armed Forces.

Left-Wing Party Urged To Give Up Violence

BK181138 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has said that the government was ready to lift the proscription of the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna — a left-wing party] to enable that party function openly if it was prepared to give up its politics of violence and agreed to join the political mainstream. President J.R. Jayewardene as a democratic leader has given the approval for this move.

Mr Premadasa was speaking after opening a reawakened village at Beliatta in southern Sri Lanka yesterday. Mr Premadasa was making this appeal not only to the JVP leaders but to all political parties whether in the north or elsewhere who subscribed to violence as a political weapon.

The prime minister said that there were persons who were inclined to make the JVP the scapegoat for any violence in the south. He invited the JVP to participate in the local elections to be held this year in order to win the support of the people for their political ideas.

LTTE Guarantees 'Lives' of Defecting Troops

BK180811 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have announced in Jaffna that dissidents from government security forces may surrender to them and that their lives will be guaranteed.

In a news conference in Jaffna on Wednesday [13 May], the individual in charge of LTTE's political wing, Thileepan, age 24, made the announcement.

Mr Chandrasekaran, who deserted (Kattuwan) military camp and defected to the LTTE was also at the news conference. He said, lives of the soldiers who surrender to us are guaranteed. They will be unconditionally released; they will be handed over to such persons like clergymen and politicians who will guarantee security for the life. [sentence as heard] But we will impose conditions for the release of the prisoners of war. For those who surrender to us, as long as they are with us their lives will be guaranteed. We have been keeping in touch with the South in connection with the release of Chandrasekaran who surrendered to us from (Kattuwan) camp. We are awaiting a reply.

Meanwhile, the surrendered Chandrasekaran said that he would like to go to the South only after becoming a [word indistinct], and that the reason for this is the prevailing situation there.

Leaders Comment on Attack on U.S. Frigate Stark

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Majlis

LD191213 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at today's open session of the Majlis, commented on the attack by the Iraqi Zionist regime's plane on the U.S. frigate *Stark* in the Persian Gulf waters and said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The miracle of Tabas was repeated and, once again, we witnessed divine assistance in support of Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We had previously explained to the superpowers that the waves of the Persian Gulf will not be any less deadly for the aggressors than the storms in Tabas [the scene of the U.S. attempt to free the hostages in Iran].

In the past 2 days, God has brought our words to life before the enemies of Islam and the people. But this time, it was worse than Tabas and affected both superpowers. Events happened so fast, were so strange, so unbelievable that international observers and those watching the events in the region have not, up to now, been able to find a logical explanation or been able to draw a clear picture of what has happened. There are many ambiguities.

Mr Reagan's situation following the incident involving the U.S. frigate *Stark* resembles the situation Mr Carter was in after the Tabas incident was announced. Reagan's speech had almost the same tone and the same poses in explaining the situation to the people of America. From the very beginning it was obvious that the intention was to justify [words indistinct]. At the same moment when Mr Reagan with his [words indistinct] announced that he has strongly protested to Iraq and is waiting for the reply, the Pentagon announced that in its view, Iraq's action was not ill-intended nor intentional. It was obvious that there was uncertainty and agitation inside the U.S. Administration.

In our view, there are many ambiguities and what has been said up to now does not clarify the issue. We have a different view from what has been said. It is obvious that for some considerable time before the attack, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. frigate, which was later damaged, were informed of the impending attack.

It was clearly said that Iraqi planes left their borders, went south to Saudi Arabian borders and then turned east. These planes were within the range of Saudi Arabia's AWACS planes which have U.S. pilots. So this proves that although AWACS planes are supposed to have been given to Saudi Arabia, they are in fact at the disposal of the United States. It was clearly said that AWACS planes had informed the frigate captain he was about to be attacked. It was also clearly said that the captain insisted the planes should not attack the frigate. Everyone says these ships have defensive capability and can defend themselves. Then why did this incident happen? These issues might come to light later on in the [words indistinct] in the U.S. Administration. But, these days, they are trying to cover it up.

Continuing his speech, referring to weakness and conflict in the U.S. Administration resulting from the attack by the planes of the Zionist regime of Iraq on the U.S. frigate *Stark*, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Republicans said that the issue is important and no one must talk about the matter until the truth comes to light. It is obvious that they are afraid of something. The Democrats declared: Why did we enter that dangerous region? The usual differences exist and everybody is trying to take advantage of the situation for their own benefit.

Can one easily accept that it was due to an error by Iraqi pilots? Could the issues between the two superpowers, their race for a presence in the Persian Gulf, and their interests in the region not be taken into consideration? Is it purely accidental that within a few hours of the arrival of a Soviet ship in regional waters -- following extensive propaganda and while being escorted by a Soviet warship -- it hits a mine, and then the U.S. warship is hit by a missile? Could one easily accept that both cases were accidental, caused by mines placed years ago and by pilot error?

They must answer these questions. We could possibly see this design. [as heard] Of course, more than anything, divine intervention and God's blessings matter to us here. The same hand that killed Abraha near Mecca, and brought misery to the United States in Tabas, has brought misery and degradation to the two superpowers here. God's support was given to this holy revolution and this deprived nation that is defending its rights.

However, one should consider material factors and certain courses of events. If there were a serious international court, we could present evidence to show that reaction and Iraqi action were against us here, a plot, thanks to the alertness of defending forces, that backfired. But, since we have no hope in the existence of such a court and a center that could bring in a just verdict, we do not allow ourselves to divulge our sources of information or our means of following the events in the Persian Gulf.

If the U.S. and Soviet nations wish it, if they promise to establish such a court in the world, if the United Nations were prepared for this, we would show that there was a great deal of deliberation and that the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq played an active role in this. We are grateful to our alert officials for causing a catastrophe — which was to have created problems for us on Jerusalem Day, by upstaging the great march of world Muslims, and pursuing their particular military aims — to backfire.

One of the important results arising from this incident, which we attribute to God's will and further to all these matters, is that the apparent invincibility of these warships was disproved. One missile has done so much damage to a warship of those dimensions that it is still ablaze after several hours, its crew has been eaten by whales [as heard], and it is being slowly towed to Bahrain by two other warships, with difficulty, while still in flames.

They are merely paper tigers, similar to other countries. While the regional people possess missiles which could hit them from a range of 100 km, what kind of magnificance, power or threat is it to others? They had better refrain from such adventures and leave the region as it is. If they truly want peace and are telling the truth, they should let these nations solve their own problems. How much support does a puppet, whose mistake has been so catastrophic — as they themselves admit — deserve when it is

to the detriment of nations and people which have been subjected to all this?

Finally, the Majlis speaker said: On the eve of the anniversary of the martyrdom of our First Imam, while our nation is engaged in prayers and worship, we expected just such a gift from God, and God gave it to us. We shall always honor this great day in our history.

Musavi Speaks at Tehran Mosque

LD191607 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, commenting on the Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. Navy frigate in the Persian Gulf which reportedly cost over 28 American lives, said here Tuesday that he thought countless others have been victimized by the aggressive policies of Reagan and Saddam.

Speaking at a mosque in eastern Tehran, Premier Musavi said such expansionist policies will certainly jeopardize more lives of the oppressed American and Iraqi nations.

The prime minister said both the East and West want to be in the Persian Gulf in order to vainly force Iran to back away from its stands on the Iraqi-imposed war.

"But," Musavi warned, "the superpowers should know that our warning is serious and we will not allow any ship to enter the Persian Gulf forcibly. We will confront any plot and military intervention in the region."

"What made us victorious during 1978-79 (triumph of the Islamic revolution) and then maintained our victories is the same thing (faith) that will defeat the superpowers," Musavi said. The premier added that he believed the superpowers are unable to analyze or take into consideration the power of the faith.

Velayati Briefs Foreign Diplomats

LD191530 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the Iraqi attack on the U.S. Navy frigate 'Stark' as a major development whose different aspects should be taken into consideration.

Speaking in a meeting with foreign diplomats to Tehran Monday, Velayati briefed them on the latest developments concerning deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against Iran.

More on the U.S. Navy frigate 'Stark' he said that presence of U.S. military fleets in Persian Gulf waters is the prime reason for escalation of tension in the region. On the other hand, Iraq through its so called mistaken strike has pursued its most cherished goals of inviting superpowers to have a greater presence in the Persian Gulf, increasing regional tension and involving other countries in its imposed war.

On reports of the United Nations team of experts confirming Iraqi use of toxic chemicals, Velayati said that the report fell short of an independence stance by failing to explicitly prohibit Iraq from using chemical weapons.

This lack of resoluteness, he told the foreign diplomats, is probably one of the major factors and reasons for the ineffectiveness of the repeated condemnation of Iraq by the U.N. Security Council in the past three years. On the contrary each and every time, following these faint-hearted denunciations the Iraqi regime has become more bolder in the deployment of chemical weapons.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, has exercized great restraint from using its right to retaliate against the Iraqi use of toxics and has unilaterally continued to hold on to human and international principles. However, he pointed out, "we declare that our adherance to these stances are not unconditional."

Omani Minister Terms Visit 'Very Fruitful'

LD191820 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Omani minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi Abdallah at the end of his 4-day visit here Tuesday described as 'very fruitful' his talks with Iranian officials.

Prior to his departure for Muscat, Al-'Alawi said he had a good chance to exchange views with Iranian officials on bilateral relations. He also said he felt Islamic Republic's support for Oman's policies and expressed hope that his visit would be a starting point for new cooperations between the two sides.

On the importance of maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf by the littoral states Al-'Alawi said it is essential that all Persian Gulf states should cooperate with each other to maintain its safety and solve the existing problems. The Omani minister said that Oman believes the Persian Gulf security is "in good condition" and "we should inspect our policies to reach basic solutions".

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who was at the airport to see off the Omani minister said their talks were satisfactory. Considering various common points shared by the two countries, Velayati said, that in the light of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy the talks were 'positive and valuable'. Velayati pointed out Iran's stances on the Persian Gulf were explained to the Omani delegation and that the two countries have mutually agreed on various points, especially on the Persian Gulf.

The two sides agreed an agreement on the expansion of relations and cooperations.

The Omani minister heading a high ranking delegation arrived here on May 16 and during his stay in Tehran held talks with President Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Premier Musavi, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and oil Minister Aqazadeh.

Ethiopia Signs Agreement To Supply U.S-Made Weapons

JN191134 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 May (WAM) — Citing diplomatic sources in London, the UAE newspaper *Al-Ittihad* reported today that the Iranian Government signed a military agreement with Ethiopia in April after 3 months of talks. The paper adds that the agreement stipulates that Iran will receive U.S.-made weapons, ammunition, and spare parts which Ethiopia stopped using years ago. The paper says this deal includes fighter planes, tanks, guns, and various types of weapons, and that some of them are serviceable while the remaining part Iran needs as spare parts.

The paper pointed out that Iran received from Ethiopia U.S.-made weapons, ammunition, various types of spare parts, and eight warplanes in 1984.

Mo'ayeri, French Envoy Discuss 'Normalization' of Ties

LD192153 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — French charge d'affaires to Tehran Pierre La France met with Deputy Premier for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Tuesday. The two sides exchanged views on normalization of relations.

Iran and France have a dispute over a one billion dollar Iranian loan to the French Atomic Energy Commission, under the former regime.

Iranian parliament this week ratified the entrustment of Irano-French claims to the Hague International Tribunal.

SDAR Envoy Issues Struggle Anniversary Statement

LD200719 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 20 IRNA — The Saharan charge d'affaires here said in a statement after 14 years of constant struggle of the Polisario Front vast areas of Sahara were liberated and thousands of enemy troops captured by revolutionaries forces.

According to the statement the Saharan people are determined to continue the war till the end of Moroccan domination in this country.

The statement issued on the anniversary of the Polisario Front's struggle (20 May) emphasized on [as received] continuation of Saharan holy jihad until they liberate the last inch of their soil and gain their legitimate rights. It said that the Polisario Front has rooted out illiteracy in Sahara and provided free education and hygiene for the people.

The recognition of 70 countries and establishment of diplomatic relations with them is one of the international achievements of the Polisario Front, concluded the statement.

Majlis Criticizes Mideast Conference, PLO Leadership

LD192113 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — The Majlis Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday described as an "arrogant treacherous plan" the proposal to hold an international mid-east peace conference with the participation of the Zionist regime and other sides involved in the Palestinian issue.

In a statement issued here, the committee also condemned both the East and West for their joint coordinated programs to legitimize the Zionist entity and bring to dead-end the freedom struggles of the Palestinian Muslims.

The statement attributed the speedy trend towards reconciliation in the Arab world to the direct pressure of the East and West. The aim is to secure the success of an Arab summit meet, followed by an international mid-east peace conference, which would lead to the recognition of the Zionist regime, it added.

Criticizing the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for its compromising stands towards the Zionist regime, the statement said the stands adopted by the PLO leadership are part of the aforesaid plot aimed at recognizing the regime occupying Palestine. The statement also said the success of the Palestinian people depends on their determination to continue an armed struggle on the basis of Islamic faith.

It is incumbent upon all countries and especially those organizations which claim to be defending the Palestinian cause to adopt decisive measures against the proposed international peace conference, the statement said.

It also called on the Iranian foreign ministry to make known and condemn the evil minds and accomplices in the plot by staging a world-wide political-publicity campaign.

Iraqi Gunboats Damaged in Gulf 19 May

LD201433 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 20, IRNA — Naval fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps hit and damaged several Iraqi gunboats and vessels in the Persian Gulf waters Tuesday night.

The enemy vessels had intended to approach positions of the Muslim forces of Iran in Khur Abdullah [name as received] waters, but were forced to flee after sustaining heavy damage.

Iraq Uses Mustard, Nerve Gas in Southern Fronts

LD191745 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 19, IRNA — Iraqi forces fired 76 chemical rockets containing mustard and nerve gases at Iranian positions in the southern fronts over the past few days, wounding some Iranian combatants.

Saddam Husayn's regime again embarked on this inhuman action against Iranian Muslim combatants despite a resolution

passed by the U.N. Security Council last week, condemning Iraq for its use of chemical arms.

Shortly after the Iraqi chemical attacks, Iranian anti-chemical units went into action, neutralizing the effects of the chemical arms and cleaning the region of the toxics.

Communique No 2,841 on Intercepted Oil Tanker

LD191728 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA — Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and searched an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed it to continue voyage since no suspicious cargo was found aboard, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2841 said that Muslim forces of Iran, holding the upper hand, continued their battle with Iraqi troops throughout the fronts Monday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

At least 15 Iraqi gun emplacements and observation posts, three munitions dumps and one mortar launcher were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday, when shelled by Iranian gendarmerie forces.

In the southern fronts Monday, reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked. Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraqi artillery and armoured units in Nahr 'Anbar destroying some enemy tanks and artillery pieces.

In the Western fronts, parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and four enemy vehicles were destroyed and their personnel killed or wounded. In areas overlooking Mehran and Helaleh, relocation activities of enemy troops was checked making them suffer heavy casualties and losses by Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi patrol units were reconnoitered and shelled in Sardasht and Garmeh, northwestern fronts, Monday, resulting in wounding of some enemy patrolmen. The other enemy patrols were forced to flee while leaving some military equipment behind.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants set ablaze an Iraqi munitions dump in Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts, yesterday, the communique concluded.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
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